

**REMARKS**

The Official Action dated November 30, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, claims 2, 4, 5, 10, 12 and 13 have been canceled in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Accordingly, claims 3, 6-8, 11 and 14-20 are presently pending in the instant application.

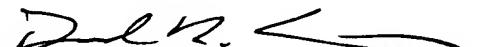
Initially, Applicant wishes to acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 3, 6-8, 11 and 14-20 are allowable over the prior art of record. Further, Applicant notes that claims 4, 5 and 13 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, as can be seen from the foregoing amendments, claims 2, 4, 5, 10, 12 and 13 have been canceled in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein leaving only claims 3, 6-8, 11 and 14-20 which have been indicated as being allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance.

With reference to paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claims 2, 10 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted Prior Art in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,915,939 issued to Hashimoto et al. and Japanese Patent Publication 2002-066760 issued to Seiji et al. With the foregoing cancellation of claims 2, 10 and 12, further discussion with respect to the merits of the rejection of such claims is no longer believed to be warranted.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the rejection of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 3, 6-8, 11 and 14-20 again be indicated as being allowable over the prior art of record and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald R. Studebaker  
Reg. No. 32,815

Nixon Peabody LLP  
401 9<sup>th</sup> Street N.W.  
Suite 900  
Washington, D. C. 20004  
(202) 585-8000